Selection of Divisional Medical Officers

2677. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of times when Special Selection for Divisional Medical Officers has taken place since April 1980 to 31st March, 1987 except the Combined Medical Services Exams. held by UPSC every year; and

(b) what is the total number of candidates selected in those special selections each time and the number of those who were from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No Special Selection for Divisional Medcal Officers has taken place. However, two Special Selections for General Assistant Divisional Medical Officers, during the period from April, 1980 to 31st March, 1987 were made through the Union Public Service Commission. The number of candidates in the general category as also in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories in these selections are indicated below:—

	1982	1985
General	155	230
Scheduled Castes	30	47
Scheduled Tribes	13	23
Total	198	300

Cracks in the foundation of Badrinath Temple

2678. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cracks have developed in the foundation of Badrinath Temple;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government to preserve the temple and to get it repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) The Badrinath Temple is not a centrally protected monument. It is managed by the Sri Badri Kodar Temple Committee. It was in 1970 that cracks were observed in the Temple and in buildings nearby, due to erosion caused by the Alaknanda and sub-soil flow of water. A Press Report (July 24) indicated that cracks have developed in the foundation of the Temple Complex. However, a recent inspection in June 1988 by the Archaeological Survey of India has not revealed any visible cracks. The Uttar Pradesh Government have also informed the Department of Culture that no fresh damage and cracks have been observed from November 1987 to July 1988 in the Temple and its adjoining buildings.

Maintenance and repair measures are undertaken regularly by the authorities concerned. A scheme of anti-avalanche works proposed in the reports of the Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment, Manali amounting to Rs. 56.09 lakhs was approved by Technical Advisory Committee of Irrigation Department, U.P. in the

year 1983-84. This has been recently revised to Rs. 78.40 lakhs. Rs. 64.04 lakhs have so far been spent on this project upto July 1988. Major works are reported to have been completed by end of November 1987.

Scheme for medical treatment of gas victims in Bhopal

2679. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any long term plan for giving medical treatment to Bhopal Gas Victims;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any Central assistance has been provided for the purpose; if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh sought financial assistance from the Central Government for expenditure on various relief and rehabilitation measures taken by it/proposed to be taken. The Government of India has given a medium term loan to the extent of Rs. 76.62 crores so far. The State Government has also prepared a long term action plan for rehabitation of gas victims. The action plan *inter-alia* includes relief and rehabilitation, projects concerning medical, economic, social etc.

In addition, the Indian Council of Medical Research has initiated several research projects to assess the health status of the gas exposed persons in the short and long term. As part of these investigations, community clinics and additional facilities for diagnosis and treatment of the Bhopal gas victims have been provided to Gandhi Medical College and J.N. Hospital at Bhopal.

Out-break of Kalazar Epidemic in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

2680. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kalazar epidemic has broken out in various parts of the country, particularly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) what is the estimated number of persons who died of this disease during the last three months;

(c) what are the causes of this epidemic; and

(d) what preventive measures are being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Considering the epidemiology of Kalazar it is clear that there is no outbreak of this disease in Bihar or in any part of the country. However, the endemicity of the disease has been established in Bihar and West Bengal. Some of the States like Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and Pondicherry have also reported sporadic cases.

(b) 47 deaths due to Kalazar have been reported by the State Health authorities during current year upto 27th July 1988.

(c) Kalazar is chronic disease caused by a parasite leishmania donovani. The parasite is present in the body of the patient and further transmitted by bite of sandfly. The incubation period is generally 2 to 4 months.